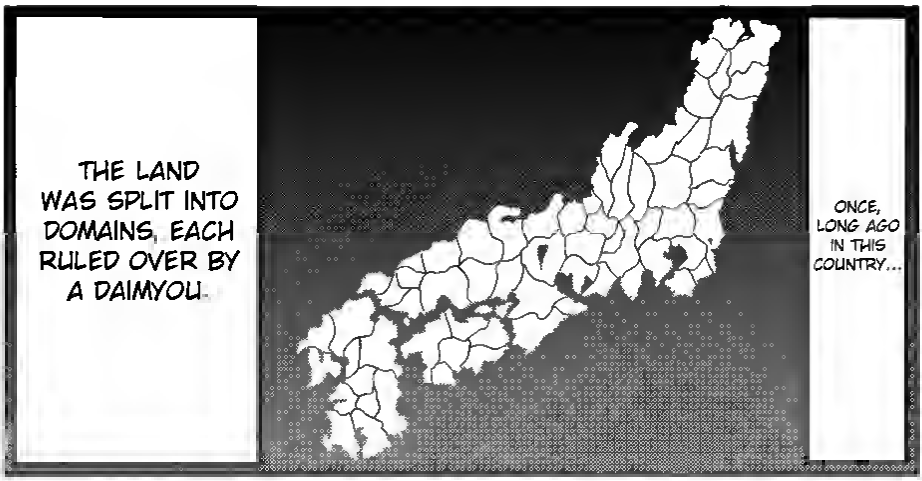
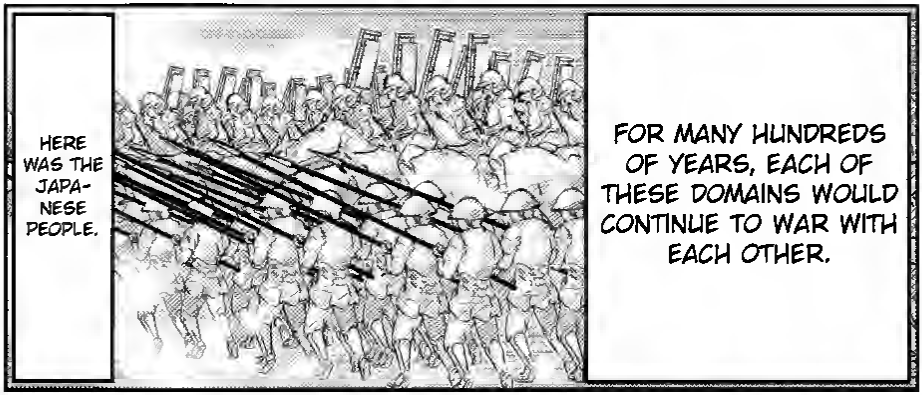
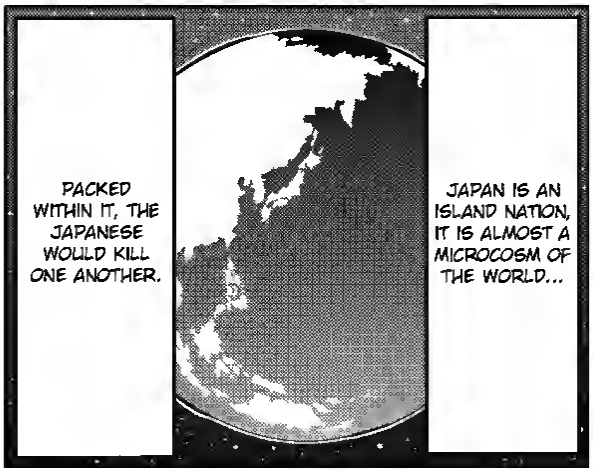
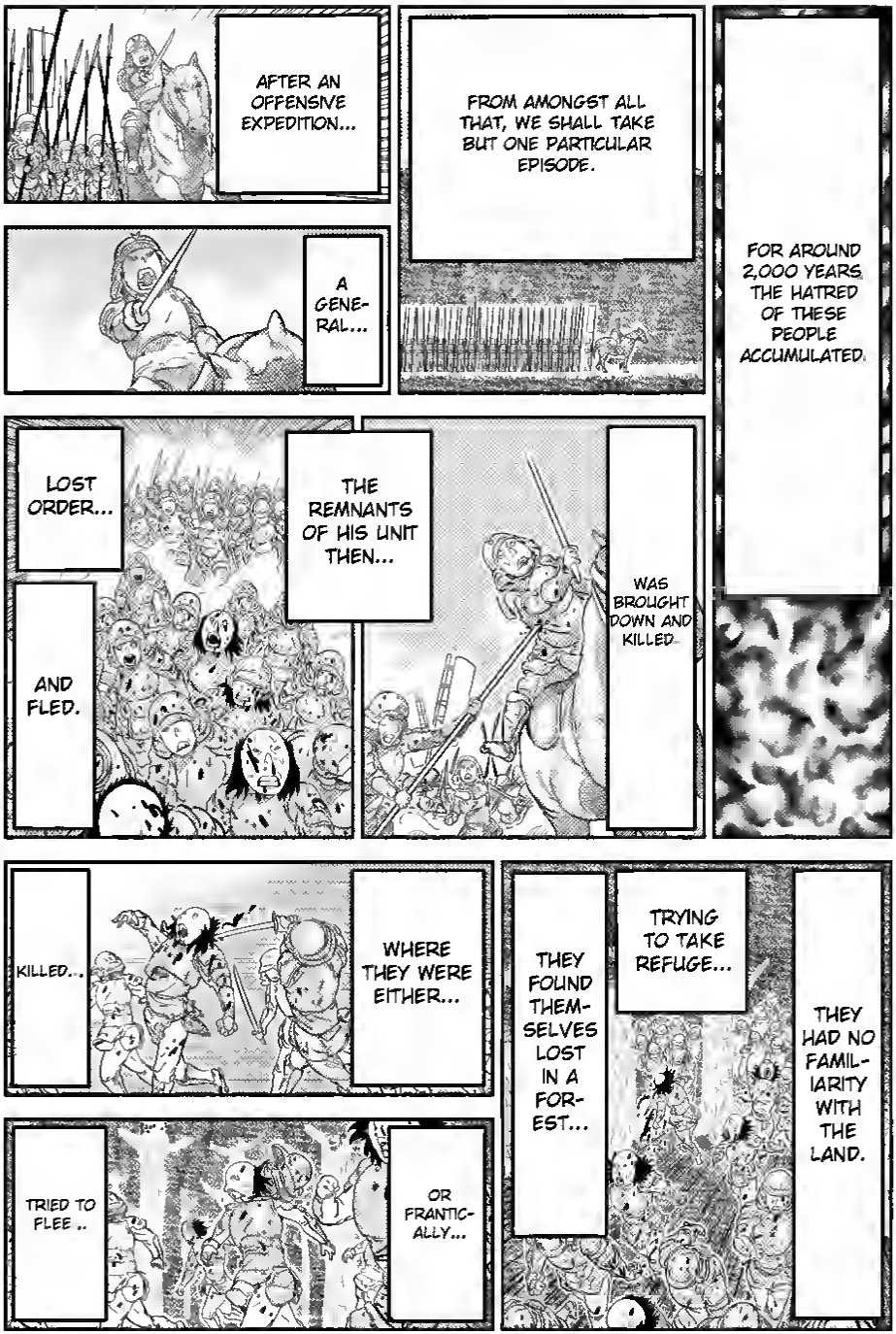
CHAPTER 14 THE HUNDRED RIDER FROG


THE LAND WAS SPLIT INTO DOMAINS, EACH RULED OVER BY A DAIMYOU.
ONCE, LONG AGO IN THIS COUNTRY...

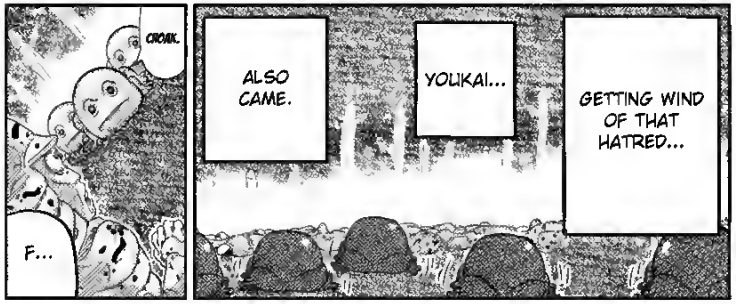

HERE WAS THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.
FOR MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS, EACH OF THESE DOMAINS WOULD CONTINUE TO WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

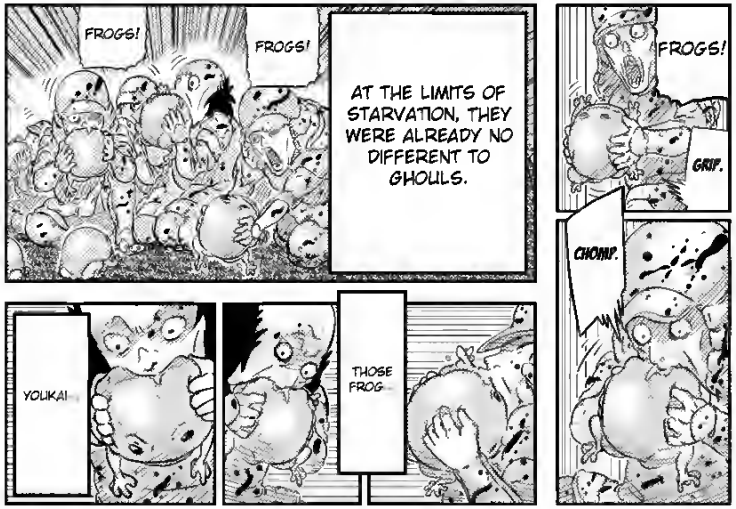

PACKED WITHIN IT, THE JAPANESE WOULD KILL ONE ANOTHER.
JAPAN IS AN ISLAND NATION, IT IS ALMOST A MICROCOSM OF THE WORLD...

TO KILL ONE ANOTHER.
IT IS NATURAL...
IN WAR...

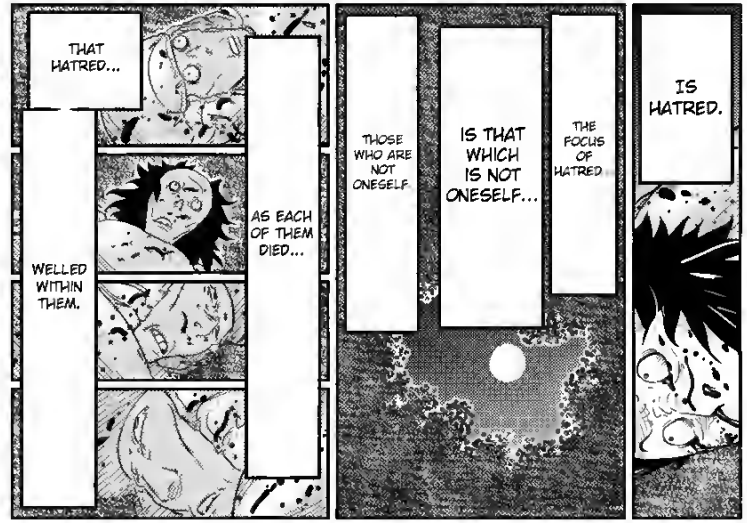

AFTER AN OFFENSIVE EXPEDITION...
A GENE-RAL...
FROM AMONGST ALL THAT, WE SHALL TAKE BUT ONE PARTICULAR EPISODE.
FOR AROUND 2,000 YEARS, THE HATRED OF THESE PEOPLE ACCUMULATED.
LOST ORDER...
AND FLED.
THE REMNANTS OF HIS UNIT THEN...
WAS BROUGHT DOWN AND KILLED.
KILLED...
WHERE THEY WERE EITHER...
TRIED TO FLEE ..
OR FRANTIC-ALLY...
THEY FOUND THEM-SELVES LOST IN A FOR-EST...
TRYING TO TAKE REFUGE...
THEY HAD NO FAMIL-IARITY WITH THE LAND.

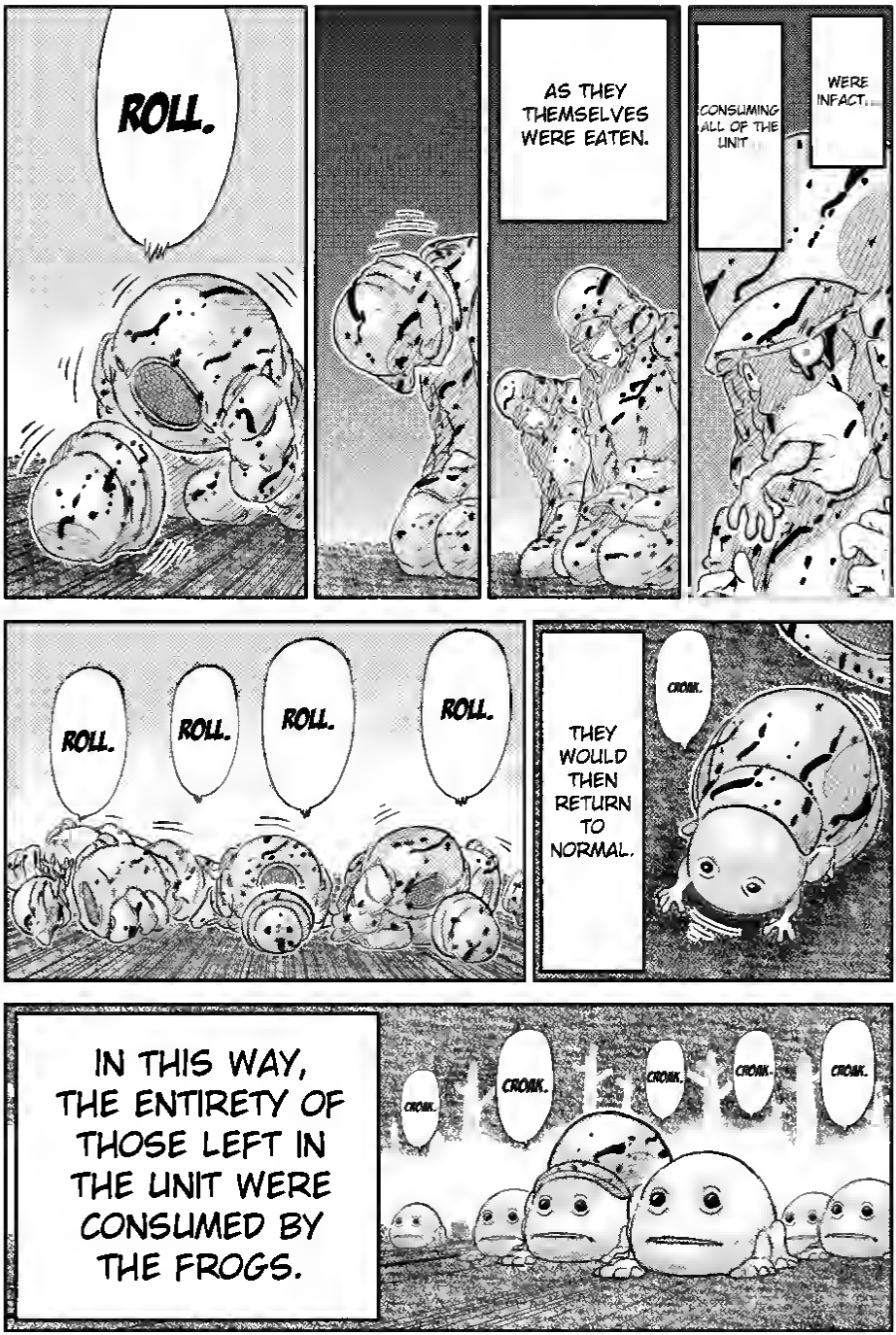
ONLY DEATH AWAITED THEM.
THEY STAR-VED...
HERE...
TO THE INNERMOST PART OF THE MOUNTAINS.
MADE IT...
HAV-ING..
BY THE END, THEY HAD EXHAUSTED ALL OF THEIR PHYSICAL STRENGTH.


CROAK.
F...
ALSO CAME.
YOUKAI...
GETTING WIND OF THAT HATRED...

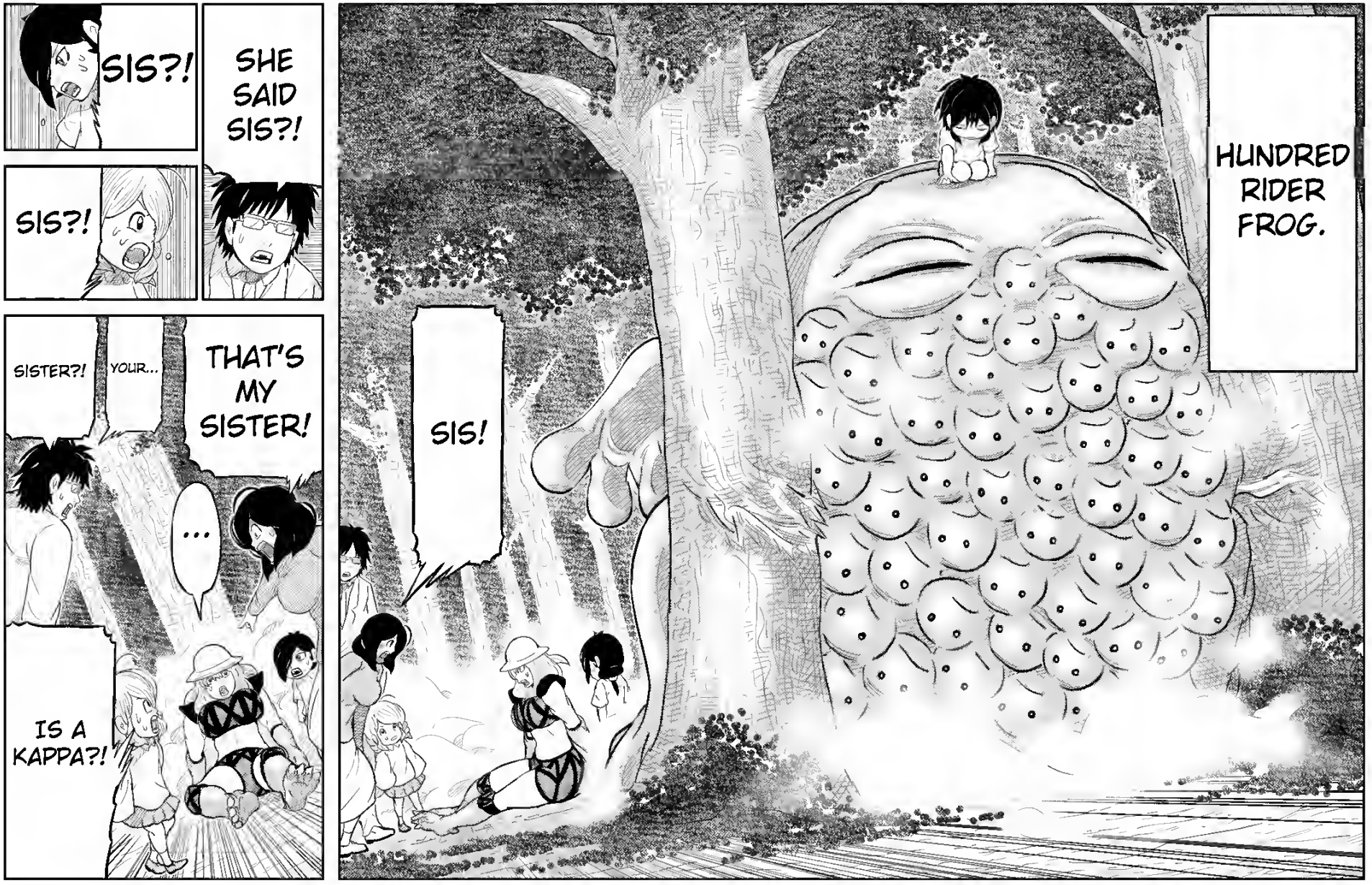

FROGS!
FROGS!
AT THE LIMITS OF STARVATION, THEY WERE ALREADY NO DIFFERENT TO GHOULS.
YOUKAI
THOSE FROG
FROGS!
GRIP.
CHOMP.

AND THAT SOME-THING...
BRING ABOUT A GREAT CHANGE IN SOMETHING.
GREAT LOSS CAN...
WITHIN HUMANS...


THAT HATRED...
WELLED WITHIN THEM.
AS EACH OF THEM DIED...
THOSE WHO ARE NOT ONESELF
IS THAT WHICH IS NOT ONESELF...
THE FOCUS OF HATRED
IS HATRED.

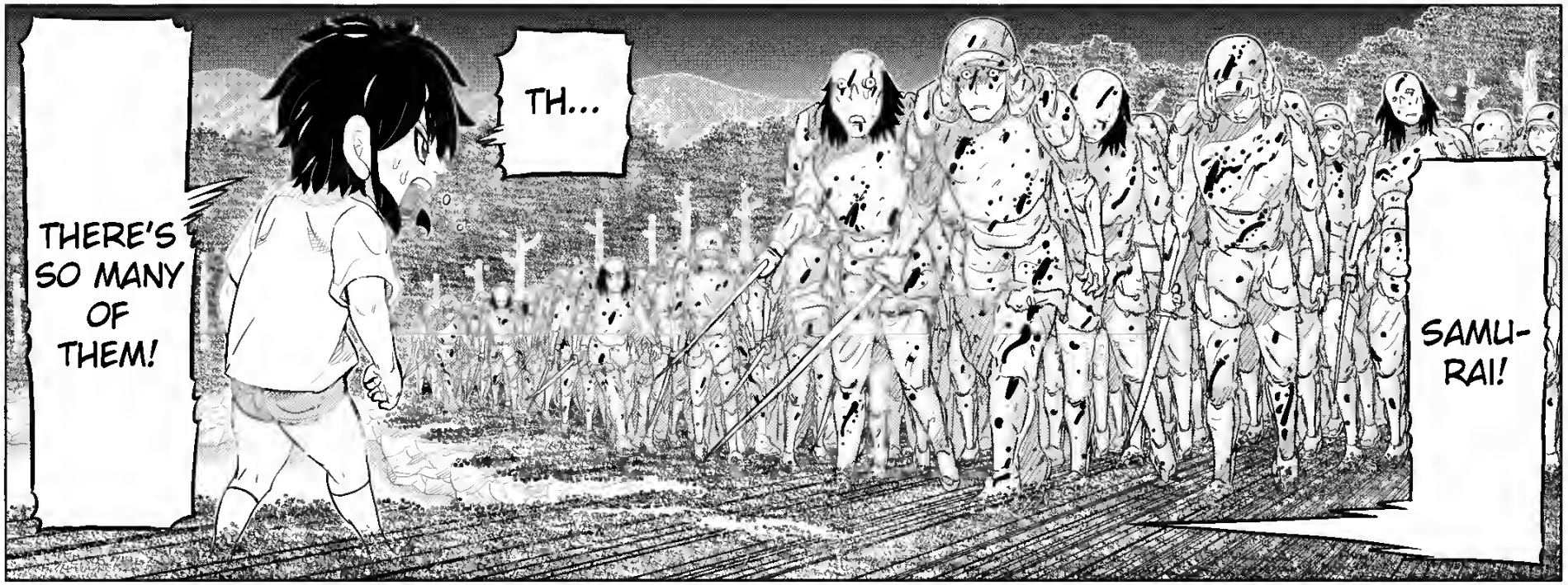

ROLL.
AS THEY THEMSELVES WERE EATEN.
CONSUMING ALL OF THE UNIT...
WERE INFACT...
ROLL.
ROLL.
ROLL.
ROLL.
CROAK.
THEY WOULD THEN RETURN TO NORMAL.
IN THIS WAY, THE ENTIRETY OF THOSE LEFT IN THE UNIT WERE CONSUMED BY THE FROGS.
CROAK.
CROAK.
CROAK.
CROAK.
CROAK.

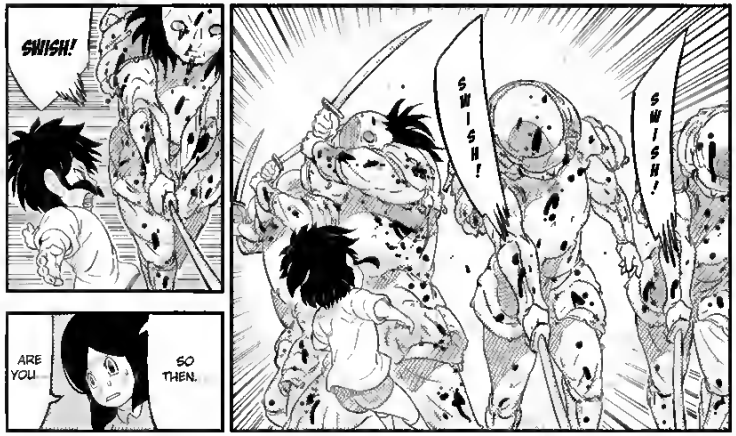
YET THEIR HATRED WAS A SHARED VECTOR.
THEY WERE LOW IN INTELLECT...
BIT.
BIT BY...
BIT.
BIT BY...
THEY BECAME ONE.
WAS THE...
AND THAT...

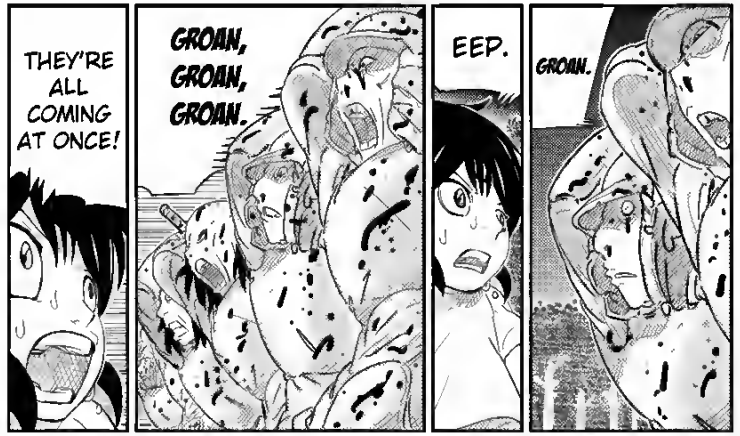

SIS?!
SHE SAID SIS?!
SIS?!
SISTER?!
YOUR...
THAT'S MY SISTER!
...
IS A KAPPA?!
SIS!
HUNDRED RIDER FROG.

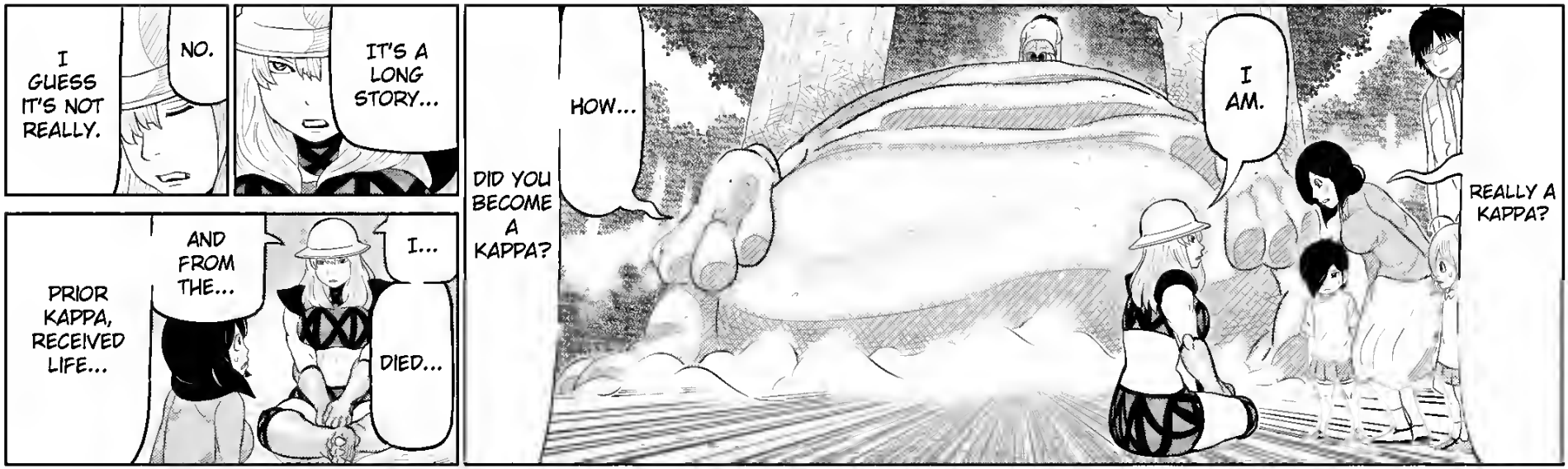
...
YOU'RE A KAPPA...
SIS..
KOI-CHAN, IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
I GUESS I LOOK A BIT BEATEN UP..
SIS.
KOI-CHAN.
I DID BECOME A KAPPA.
DID YOU BECOME A KAPPA?
A KAPPA?
YOU BECAME...
YES.
A KAPPA?
BECOME A KAPPA.
I DID...

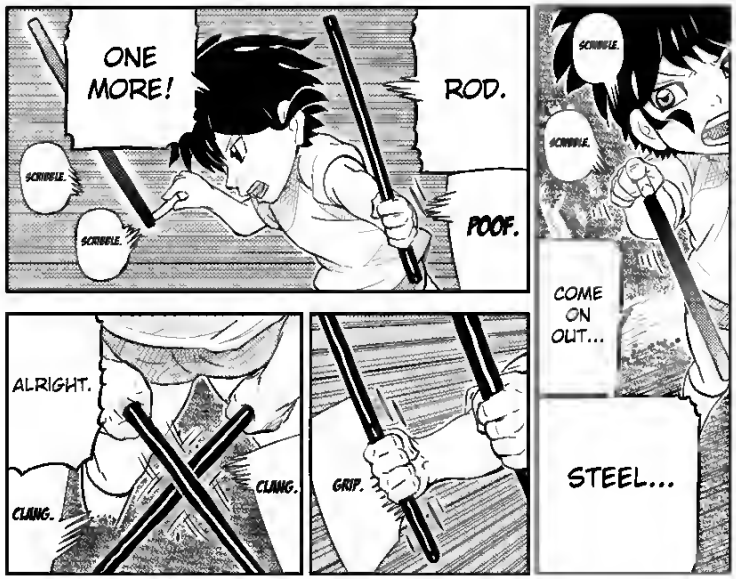
WAS INSIDE THE DREAM...
OF THE HUNDRED RIDER FROG.
AT THAT TIME MIKO...
...
W...
WHAT IS...
ALL THIS?
KATANA WIELD-ING...
SO THE HUGE FROG'S CORE WAS AC-TUALLY...
IS IT?
INSIDE IT'S...
NOT JUST ONE PERSON...

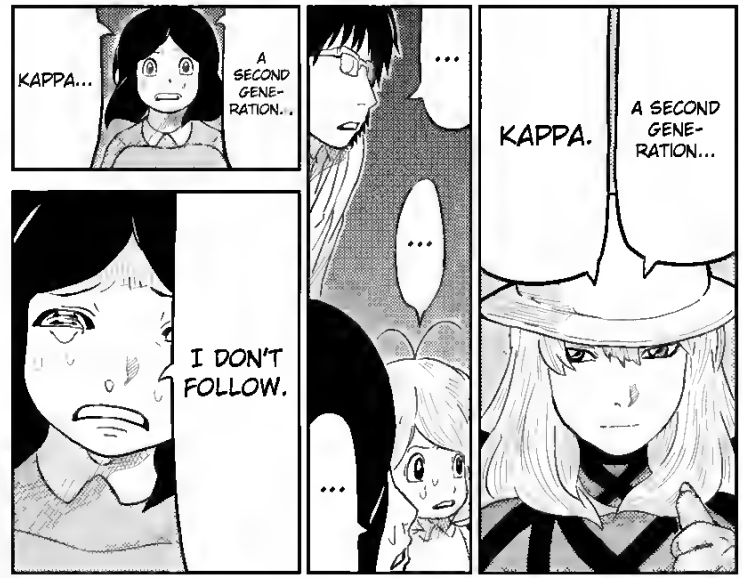

TH...
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!
SAMU-RAI!


SWISH!
SWISH!
SWISH!
ARE YOU
SO THEN.


THEY'RE ALL COMING AT ONCE!
GROAN, GROAN, GROAN.
EEP.
GROAN.


I GUESS IT'S NOT REALLY.
NO.
IT'S A LONG STORY...
PRIOR KAPPA, RECEIVED LIFE...
AND FROM THE...
I...
DIED...
DID YOU BECOME A KAPPA?
HOW...
I AM.
REALLY A KAPPA?


ONE MORE!
ROD.
SCRIBBLE.
SCRIBBLE.
POOF.
SCRIBBLE.
SCRIBBLE.
COME ON OUT...
STEEL...
ALRIGHT.
CLANG.
CLANG.
GRIP.

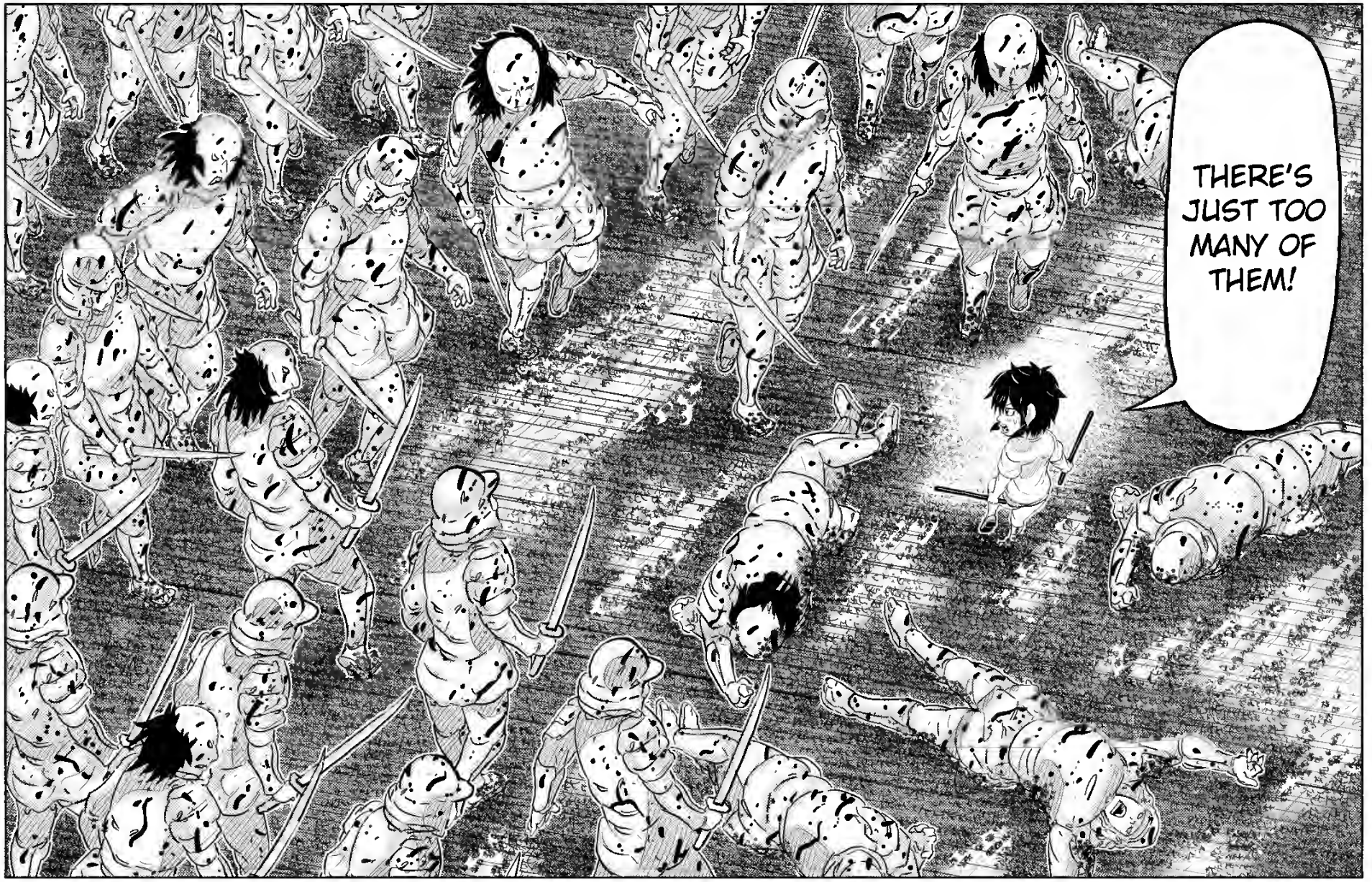

KAPPA...
A SECOND GENE-RATION...
I DON'T FOLLOW.
...
...
...
KAPPA.
A SECOND GENE-RATION...

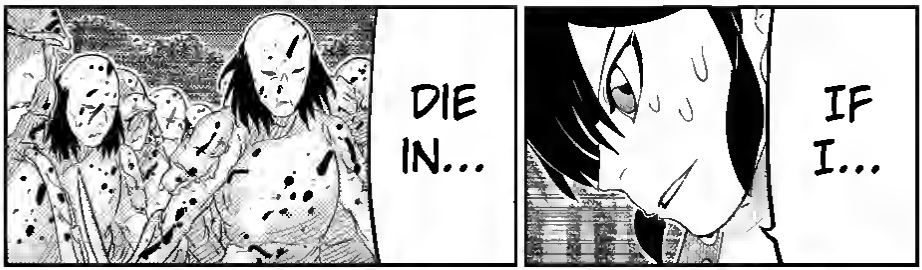
BRING IT!
CLANG!
WHIP.

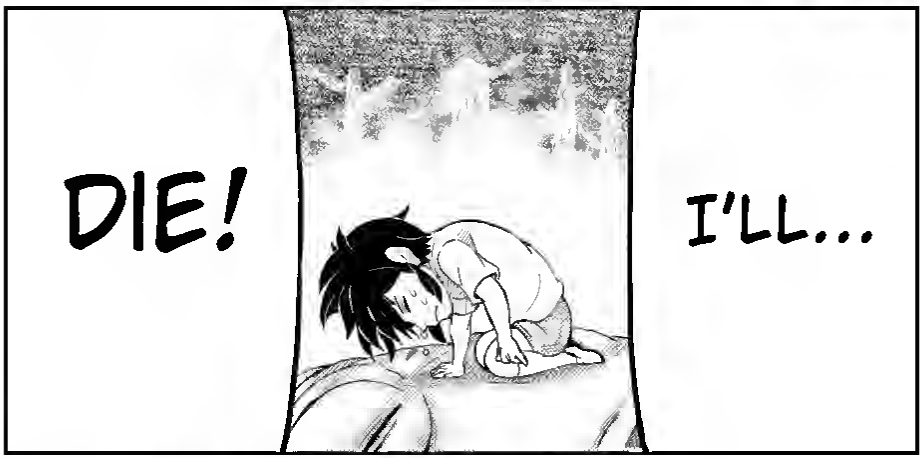
BAM!
SLIP.
FWHOOP.

WHAT THE...?!
!
PLOP.
IS MIKO...
PLOP.
PLOP.
PLOP.
PLOP.
OKAY?
HAAH.
HAAH.

THIS MIGHT...
HAAH.
HAAH.
FUTILE.
BE A LIL'...
THIS IS BAD...
SAKO.
KOKO.
THERE'S...


THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF THEM!





CHAPTER 14 END